

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing insulinotropic GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide and/or GLP-1 analogs comprising:

- (a) introducing two individual restriction endonuclease cleavage sites capable of forming a hybrid site to two terminals of a gene which ~~may encode~~ encodes either the GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide or GLP-1 analogs, wherein each copy of the GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide or GLP-1 analog includes a cleavable spacer including an N-terminal Arg;
- (b) ligating cohesive ends to form a hybrid site after digestion with restriction endonucleases, and cloning a resulting fragment into a vector to form an expression vector comprising N copies of a resulting series-linked GLP-1(7-36) gene, GLP-1 analog gene, or a combination of genes encoding GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide ~~[[or]]~~ and GLP-1 ~~analog~~ analog genes, wherein N is an integer from + 2 to 32;
- (c) transforming ~~[[a]]~~ the expression vector containing the series-linked gene into a host cell;
- (d) expressing ~~into~~ in the host cell a fusion protein comprising N copies of the series-linked GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide, GLP-1 analog or the combination thereof, but without any carrier protein;
- (e) ~~leaving~~ isolating the fusion protein from the host cell and utilizing a sequence specific protease enzyme to cleave the fusion protein at the cleavable spacer into multiple copies of GLP-1 (7-36) polypeptides or GLP-1 analogs; and
- (f) separating and purifying the GLP-1 (7-36) polypeptides ~~and/or~~ or GLP-1 analogs.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein the two restriction endonucleases capable of forming a hybrid site are Bgl II and BamH I.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein the two restriction endonucleases capable of forming a hybrid site are Sal I and ~~XhoI~~ XhoI.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 in which said vector contains N copies of the series-linked gene, wherein N is an integer from ~~[[2]]~~ 4 to 32.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 4 in which the said vector contains N copies of the series-linked gene, wherein N is an integer from 8 to 32.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 5 in which the said vector contains N copies of the series-linked gene, wherein N is 16.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 5 in which the said vector contains N copies of the series-linked gene, wherein N is 32.

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 in which said host cell ~~may express~~ expresses a fusion protein containing N copies of a polypeptide, wherein N is an integer from 1 to 32.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 9 in which said host cell ~~may express~~ expresses a fusion protein containing N copies of a polypeptide, wherein N is an integer from 8 to 32.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10 in which said host cell ~~can express~~ expresses a fusion protein containing N copies of a polypeptide, wherein N is 16.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10 in which said host cell ~~can express~~ expresses a fusion protein containing N copies of a polypeptide, wherein N is 32.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to claim 9 wherein said host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 13 wherein said host cell is *Escherichia coli* JM103, JM109, HB101, or DH5 α or C600.

Claim 15 (cancelled):

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ a protease is used to cleave the fusion protein, the protease selected from the group consisting of: is Clostrispan clostrispan or Trypsin trypsin.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the fusion protein is cleaved by treatment with a compound selected from the group consisting of: cyanogen bromide, alkaline proteases, enterokinases, endopeptidases, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 17, wherein the alkaline protease is trypsin and internal lysine groups are acetylated prior to trypsin treatment.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 18, wherein the internal lysine groups are acetylated by treatment with an anhydride followed by deprotection after trypsin treatment.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 19, wherein the anhydride is selected from the group consisting of: acetic anhydride; maleic anhydride; citraconic anhydride, and 3, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrophthalic anhydride.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the insulinotropic polypeptide is GLP-1 (7-36) (SEQ ID NO 1) and the cleavage spacer is an N-terminal Arg.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 1, where the insulinotropic polypeptide is GLP-1 (7-36) (SEQ ID NO 1) and each GLP-1 copy is preceded by an N-terminal Met-Arg.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein each copy of the GLP-1(7-36) polypeptide or GLP-1 analog further includes at least one C-terminal Arg.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 22, wherein the isolated fusion protein is treated with cyanogen bromide followed by cleavage with clostripain protease.